

Female pilots

714. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of female pilots are increasing day by day in the aviation sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future programmes of Government for further increase in the number of female pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of female pilots working in airlines has increased from 88 as on 01.01.2004 to 257 till 26.02.2007.

(c) The rules governing grant of pilot licences are gender neutral. The fact that more and more women are taking civil flying as a profession bears testimony to the fact that the extant system is working satisfactorily.

Congestion at airports

715. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the specific reasons for the sudden spurt and phenomenal increase in the number of air passengers resulting in almost all major airports to be crowded and congested and worse than bus-stands;

(b) whether this increase was expected;

(c) if so, why action in advance was not taken;

(d) if not, why it could not be gauged; and

(e) the crisis management now envisaged to deal with problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The reasons for sudden spurt in the number of air passengers are due to following factors— Economic reforms, Fast industrial development, Rapid increase in buying power of sizeable

population, emergence of low cost airlines and apex fare system, open sky policy and liberal policy of license to new schedule operators, liberal bi-lateral agreements, liberal permission to acquisition of new aircrafts. Permission to domestic carriers to operate on international sectors including to United Kingdom and United States of America.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Such high growth was sudden and was unexpected.

(e) To cope up with the sudden spurt and phenomenal increase in air passengers traffic, the following actions have been/are being taken— Construction of new terminals, expansion of existing terminals, Construction of additional aircraft parking stands for over night parking, Construction of new rapid exist and parallel taxiways to enhance runway capacity, introduction of new ATC procedures for simultaneous use of both runways at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) and Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airports, posting of additional ATC officers in ATC units, ban on general aviation and military flights during peak hours at IGI and CSI Airports Modernisation and development of IGI and CSI Airports through Joint Venture Companies and Construction of Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad in Public Private Partnership.

Development of airports in the North Eastern Region

716. **SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for expansion, development and promotion of airports and infrastructure in the North Eastern Region particularly in the State of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of National Action Plan prepared by Government for implementation of the said scheme;

(d) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred by Government in NER, State-wise; and